

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

WH

90-329

CONFIDENTIAL

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Action
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With concurrence of _____

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Declassify in part and excise as shown

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2170, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 780,
LONDON 548, BERLIN 755,

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GERMAN MOOD AT APPROACH SUMMIT MARKED BY DIMINISHED APPREHENSION AND A CERTAIN CONFIDENCE. AT EMBASSY MEETING YESTERDAY POLITICAL OFFICERS FROM ALL MISSIONS IN GERMANY REPORTED THIS TO BE ATTITUDE IN ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY AND WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL VARIATIONS AMONG DIFFERENT PARTY GROUPS. NATO ISTANBUL MEETING WAS REASSURING AND TOUGHER SOV STANCE IS COUNTED ON TO ELICIT CORRESPONDING WESTERN POSITION AND TO END POSSIBILITIES OF CONCESSIONS WHICH SOME FEARED MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE TO END POSSIBILITIES OF CONCESSIONS WHICH SOME FEARED MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE TO DETRIMENT GERMAN INTERESTS. PREVAILING VIEW IS THAT CONFRONTATION OF OPPOSING POSITIONS WILL OCCUR AT SUMMIT, THAT NO SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS WILL BE MADE ON BERLIN BY EITHER SIDE, AND THAT STATUS QUO THERE IS BEST OUTCOME TO BE HOPED FOR FROM GERMAN STANDPOINT.

LONG PERIOD PREPARATION HAS BEEN HARD ON NERVES AND, CDU FINDS, CONDUCIVE TO PROPAGATION DANGEROUS IDEAS. FEELING "WE'LL BE DEAD WHEN IT'S OVER" IS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED. DISARMAMENT IS CONSIDERED MOST LIKELY AREA POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT BUT EVEN THESE HOPES ARE VERY MODEST. SPD TODAY RELEASED ITS OFFICIAL PRE-SUMMIT POSITION IN WHICH REGIONAL DISARMAMENT IS A MAIN POINT, BUT SPD LEADERS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LITTLE TO BE EXPECTED ALONG THESE LINES.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

MIL 90-329-2

By

7/10/91 NLE DSC

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-2- 2170, MAY 13, 4 PM, FROM BONN

PLANE INCIDENT MAY NOT YET HAVE HAD ITS FULL EFFECT AND DELAYED REACTION POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, SO FAR INCIDENT NOT TAKEN TRAGICALLY AND NONE NOW SEEM BELIEVE IT WILL IN ITSELF DETERMINE COURSE CONFERENCE. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CRITICISM US HANDLING AND MURMURING THAT INEPTITUDE, AS WELL AS DIFFICULTIES WEST COORDINATION, CAN BE DANGEROUS WITH WILY SOV ANTAGONIST PARIS.

THERE IS IN PRESENT CALM GOOD DEAL WISHFUL THINKING, AND DESIRE ESCAPE FEARS AND WORRIES SO INTENSE SINCE NOV 58. THERE IS ALSO CERTAIN FEELING DECISIONS ARE OUT OF GERMAN HANDS. SUBCONSCIOUS APPREHENSIVENESS REMAINS AND COULD EASILY ERUPT IN COURSE CONFERENCE OR ITS AFTERMATH.

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